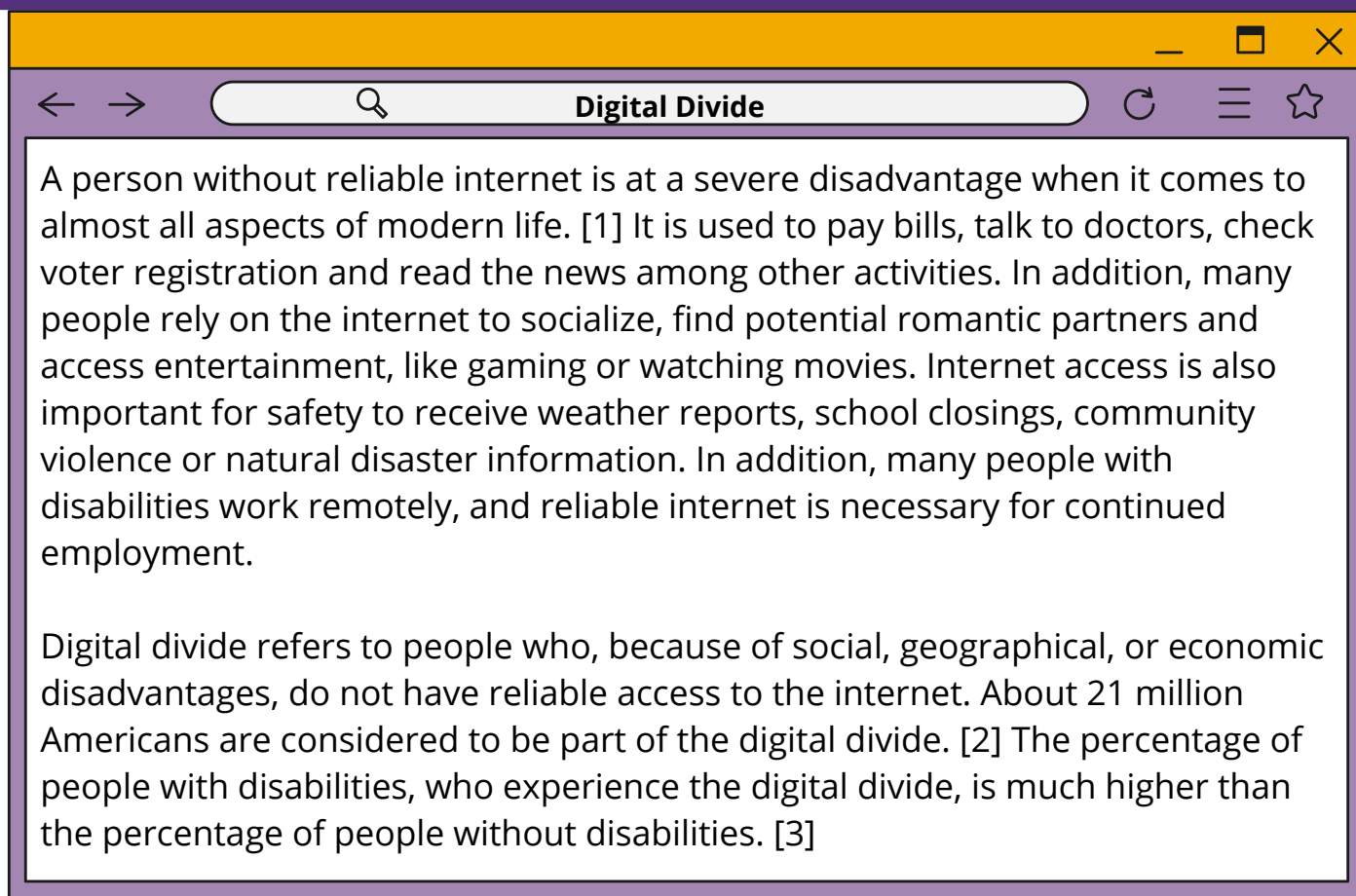


# Digital Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities



Developmental  
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## Barriers

### **People with developmental disabilities lack internet education --**

Attitudinal barriers are assumptions about what a person with a developmental disability can or cannot do. These lowered expectations allow people to believe that people with developmental disabilities are not capable of using and understanding the digital world. As a result of attitudinal barriers, people with developmental disabilities experience training and inclusion barriers, meaning they are not actively included in education about the internet and the use of technology.

**Rural and/or areas of poverty lack the necessary infrastructure for reliable internet access --** Reliable internet requires significant investments in digital infrastructure. This means making sure that everyone has an internet-enabled device and adequate access to broadband internet. [4]



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# Policy Solutions

## Digital Literacy Training for People with Developmental Disabilities

New York should support and expand resources to provide digital literacy training for people with developmental disabilities. One example of this type of training is the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State's TechKnowldgeMe, a self-advocate-led program that focuses on teaching people with developmental disabilities how to best use technology and the internet and to engage in digital advocacy. [5] TechKnowldgeMe is funded through a NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council grant.



## Investment in Broadband Infrastructure in Rural and Underserved Areas of the State

New York is doing a significant amount of work to improve infrastructure for more equitable digital access; however, people with developmental disabilities, families and services providers, especially in rural and underserved communities, continue to struggle to get access. New York State should continue to consider the unique needs of people with developmental disabilities and make targeted investments in statewide infrastructure for that population. As more people with disabilities receive teleservices, this is essential.



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